



**CONSULATE GENERAL OF THE  
UNITED STATES OF AMERICA**

**STATEMENT OF THE U.S. ACTING PERMANENT OBSERVER TO THE COUNCIL  
OF EUROPE AT THE MARCH 3, 2014 MEETING OF THE COMMITTEE OF  
MINISTERS' DEPUTIES CONCERNING THE SITUATION IN UKRAINE**

-- The United States condemns the Russian Federation's military intervention into Ukrainian territory, and its violation of Ukrainian sovereignty and territorial integrity in contravention of Russia's obligations under the UN Charter; its 1997 Treaty on Friendship, Cooperation and Partnership with Ukraine; as well as its commitments under the Helsinki Final Act and the obligations and commitments it reaffirmed in signing the 1994 Budapest Memorandum. Russia's clear violation of Ukrainian sovereignty and territorial integrity is a breach of international law and a threat to international security that should be reversed immediately.

-- We believe all states and international organizations should similarly condemn Russia's military action in Ukraine and urge Russia to withdraw its forces back to bases in Crimea and refrain from any further interference in Ukraine.

-- Russia has fabricated information about the situation in order to foster interethnic tension inside Ukraine and has provided no legal justification for military intervention. We have looked closely and determined that there is no factual basis for the Russian claims. But even if Russian propaganda about threats to ethnic Russians were true, it would not justify a military invasion.

-- Russia should have sought to address its concerns through bilateral and multilateral engagement, but it has instead used military force. This was a choice.

-- It is critical to deploy international observers as soon as possible to Crimea and Eastern Ukraine through the UN and/or OSCE. Observers would provide transparency about the movement and activities of military and para-military forces in the region, monitor for violations or abuses, and defuse tensions between different groups. We also support the intensive engagement by the OSCE's High Commissioner on National Minorities, who can independently validate and address concerns Russia may have about the treatment of ethnic Russians.

-- It is also essential that Russia accept a dialogue with Ukraine's leaders to deescalate tensions and address concerns on both sides. The Ukrainian government has repeatedly sought bilateral engagement but it has been mostly rebuffed. We understand Russian Prime Minister Medvedev has accepted just one phone call from Ukrainian Prime Minister Yatsenyuk. We urge you to press Russia to engage immediately with Ukraine's government to find a resolution to the crisis.

-- President Obama is committed to help find a peaceful solution by facilitating direct talks between the Ukrainian and Russian governments. We will continue to consult with Ukraine, our allies and partners in Europe and around the world, and at the United Nations to support the sovereignty, territorial integrity, and democratic future of Ukraine.